

## AS AIR YACHT MYSTERY UNSOLVED

The Nourmahal Has Now Been Out of Touch with the World Two Weeks

### EVERY HOUR DEEPENS THE ANXIETY

For the Safety of Colonel John Jacob Astor and His Son, who were Cruising in Southern Waters During the West India Hurricane—Steamer Searching for the Yacht in the Vicinity of Caicos Islands

New York, Nov. 19.—Every added hour of uncertainty deepens the anxiety felt for Col. John Jacob Astor, his son Vincent, and Richard Peters, a cousin of Mrs. Astor, all of whom have now been out of touch with the world for a fortnight, when the missing yacht Nourmahal was last spoken.

Yacht Had No Wireless Apparatus. Shipping masters point out that if the Nourmahal was blown out of her course by the late West India hurricane, she might have great difficulty in making port again, as her cruising radius, like that of all yachts, is comparatively small, and would soon be exhausted in fighting head winds.

Hope for her safety rests on the assumption that she is now in port, but that, owing to the interruption of the cable service, it is impossible to get word of her arrival in America. The Nourmahal has no wireless apparatus, and failing advice from West India ports news of her must come from some ship that has spoken or sighted her.

Red D. Limer Saw Nothing of the Nourmahal.

The passenger steamer Maracabo of the Red D. line, nearly three days overdue at this port from the West Indies, arrived yesterday afternoon, bringing the first news of the continuing use of oil to keep the vessel under control. The Maracabo brought no tidings of the missing yacht Nourmahal, of Col. John Jacob Astor, which has not been spoken for two weeks.

In twenty-four hours, during the height of the recent West India hurricane, the Maracabo made but fifty-one miles. The heavy weather, which rendered the continuing use of oil to keep the vessel under control. The Maracabo brought no tidings of the missing yacht Nourmahal, of Col. John Jacob Astor, which has not been spoken for two weeks.

MRS. STETSON NOT YET BARRED FROM NEW YORK CHURCH. BARRER FROM NEW YORK. With Mrs. Stetson as Head.

New York, Nov. 19.—Mrs. Augusta E. Stetson, excommunicated Christian Science leader of this city, has secluded herself at her home in Boston, and what will be the outcome of matters in New York is not known. Mrs. Stetson, here, in which she was formerly the dominant figure, is problematical. The trustees of the church met today but took no action on her case other than to endorse a recent decision of a committee of ten not to call a meeting of the congregation to go over the situation. There is much talk of a new church being organized with Mrs. Stetson at the head, but nothing authoritative.

Although dropped by the mother church, Mrs. Stetson is not yet barred from the New York institution. Whether she will be dropped is yet to be decided upon. She is still a member of the board of trustees of the local church, and her resignation is in that body's hands, it was not acted on at the meeting today.

RELATED PASSENGER'S PERILOUS 14-MILE RIDE. Clinging by His Toes on Step of a Closed Vestibule.

New York, Nov. 19.—The Delaware, Lackawanna & Western train despatcher at Hoboken, N. J., received an urgent message from Dover, N. J., to-day, that a passenger, who had made an effort to catch the Lackawanna Limited at that station, had swung himself aboard the narrow outer step of a closed vestibule and was being carried swiftly to certain death unless the train could be stopped. He immediately notified the Dover station agent, who sent a messenger to the train, and a few minutes later when the ponderous engine came to a stop, the watching station agent saw an exhausted man drop from the railing of a passenger coach.

The man had ridden fourteen miles with only a foot rest for his feet, clinging with both hands to brass rail. In another mile he surely would have been dashed to death against an iron fence.

PUBLIC GATHERINGS STOPPED. ALL SCHOOLS CLOSED. Alarming Increase of Diphtheria Epidemic in Biddeford.

Biddeford, Me., Nov. 19.—The people of Biddeford will have less than the usual reason for the no opportunity for general thanksgiving during the coming week and the day set apart for this purpose. Because of the alarming increase in the epidemic of diphtheria, which has been prevalent for more than a month, the board of health to-day ordered the closing of all schools and the city library and forbade the holding of any public gathering.

Twelve deaths out of several hundred cases of the disease have occurred.

Funeral of Richard Watson Gilder To-day.

New York, Nov. 19.—Funeral services over the body of Richard Watson Gilder, the poet and editor, who died on Thursday, will be held in the Church of the Ascension at 11 o'clock tomorrow. The pallbearers will be Dr. Nelson P. Hulst of Milwaukee, Edward V. Laundie, Dr. Talcott Williams of Philadelphia, Jacob A. Rills, Hamilton W. Mable, President John H. Finley of the College of the City of New York, Thomas A. Janvier, Dr. S. Wier Mitchell, William Dean Howells, and Charles Goodrich.

After the services the body will be carried by special train to Bordentown, N. J., where a private burial will be given.

Yearly Salary \$21,500. New York, Nov. 19.—Although justices of the supreme court of the United States receive only \$12,500 a year, the state supreme court justices sitting in New York City find their present remuneration of \$17,500 a year inadequate and a resolution was adopted today by the city's board of estimates and appropriations increasing their salaries to \$21,500. The increase will go into effect Jan. 1, 1910.

## Cabled Paragraphs

Peking, Nov. 19.—Arrangements were completed today for the opening of Hun-Chun, Manchuria, to international trade on January 1 next.

Lima, Peru, Nov. 19.—The award of King Alfonso of Spain, who was made the arbitrator of the boundary dispute between Peru and Ecuador, has been announced and accepted by both nations.

London, Nov. 19.—Herbert John Gladstone, secretary of state for home affairs, has accepted the post of governor-general of the United Kingdom of Africa. It is announced that the liberal executive committee of Mr. Gladstone's constituents, Leeds, has requested T. E. Harvey to stand as the liberal candidate for the house of commons in the approaching election.

Madrid, Nov. 19.—Official advice from the island of Tenerife state that the activity of the volcano that appeared in the mountains of Las Flores continued for only five minutes, but that the eruption menaces all of the inhabitants in the south of the island. The inhabitants know that the only way of escape is by sea are panic stricken. Other mountains in the vicinity are giving evidences of volcanic activity.

Berlin, Nov. 19.—Martin Kaufmann of New York, who was arrested in November 4, charged with having committed frauds in connection with the Cotton Goods Converters company of New York, was released by the supreme court today, suspended for the remainder of the six months' session of the Reichstag, and was allowed to take the steamer Kronland for New York.

Bonn, Prussia, Nov. 19.—Owing to disorders committed by students of Bonn university in the town of Bonn and neighboring villages, the university was today suspended for the remainder of the six months' session of the Reichstag, and was allowed to take the steamer Kronland for New York.

Friends of the Astors Greatly Alarmed. William A. Dobyns, Colonel Astor's secretary in this city, was still, according to word from the Nourmahal tonight. Though inclined at first to consider the publication with little concern, Mr. Dobyns is now alarmed, and the other friends of Colonel Astor.

Searching Steamer Despatched from Turkey Island. Grand Turk, Turkey Island, Nov. 19.—A steamer has been despatched from here to the Caicos islands with instructions to search for the missing yacht Nourmahal, with John Jacob Astor, his son Vincent and a party of friends on board, which has not been reported since the recent tropical storm. There is no news of the vessel in these islands and a search in the vicinity is being made.

Nourmahal Not Sighted by Vessels Reaching Kingston.

Kingston, Jamaica, Nov. 19.—Mr. Astor's yacht Nourmahal cleared from Kingston for Ponce, P. R., at midday, November 5. She did not call here. The steamer, however, is reported sighting the Nourmahal. The British cruiser Scylla went in search of the missing vessel Thursday.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CENSUS SUPERVISORS. Care Must Be Exercised in the Selection of Enumerators.

Washington, Nov. 19.—Instructions to supervisors who are to take the next census, beginning April 15, 1910, have been issued by the Census Bureau. The instructions are in the form of a circular, and are intended to guide the supervisors in the selection of enumerators. It is suggested that care be exercised in the selection of enumerators, and that only those of mature judgment and experience be selected. The instructions also state that the enumerators should be selected from among the population of the district they are to canvass.

At a later date, the director, to determine the fitness of enumerators, will provide an examination and the papers will be passed on by the census bureau.

It is estimated that more than 65,000 enumerators will be employed, of which number 45,000 will work on both the population and farm schedules.

World's Height Records Made in Heavier-Than-Air Machine. Bouey, France, Nov. 19.—Competing for the Pulitzer prize for heavy-lift, a monoplane ascended a distance of 1,345 feet. M. Paulhan in a biplane 1,181 feet. Both of these heights are world's records. Paulhan previously held the honor at 997 feet, the flight having been made at Sandouville, France.

Officially, Washington made an unofficial flight at a height of 1,400 feet at Potomac in October and Count De Lambert made a flight at a height of 1,300 feet in a monoplane in August.

The flight was made at Sandouville, France.

Application of a Syrian to Be Made a Citizen Denied. Lincoln, Neb., Nov. 19.—District Judge Cornish today after an extended court hearing denied the application of Memmed Salem, a Syrian, to be admitted as a citizen of the United States.

The court based his denial on his construction of the ruling at Washington that a Syrian is not an American citizen, and is therefore debarred.

Bankrupted by the Popularity of the Automobile. Boston, Nov. 19.—The popularity of the automobile is responsible for the embarrassment of the French Carriage company, 32-38 Summer street, and concerns of the kind in the country.

Today Henry Hooker & Co. of New Haven, Conn., and other creditors reported that the company's business was practically a total loss.

Later J. H. Soliday was appointed receiver. The liabilities are \$50,000; assets \$25,000.

Wife of Artist Christy Trying to Get Possession of Her Child. Zanesville, O., Nov. 19.—Mrs. Mabelle Thompson Christy, wife of Howard Christy, the artist, of New York City, instituted habeas corpus proceedings in the local courts today to regain possession of the couple's 10-year-old child, who has been staying with the parents of Mr. Christy.

The child was not at home when a sheriff called to serve the papers.

Governor Weeks and Staff Present. Bristol, Conn., Nov. 19.—The celebration of the tenth anniversary of Company D, First regiment, C. N. G., here tonight, was attended by Gov. P. B. Weeks and staff. The celebration closed with a ball.

Neck Broken in Football Game. Orange, N. J., Nov. 19.—With his neck broken in much the same way as was that of Cadet Byrne of West Point, Albert P. Witherale, 17 years old, died tonight in the Orange Memorial hospital, another victim of football.

He was tackled in open field while running with the ball and thrown head first.

Baby Died from Bite of White Mice. Barnwell, S. C., Nov. 19.—Blood poisoning caused by bites of white mice, resulted in the death today of the six weeks old child of E. W. Holman. Last Friday the baby was taken alone on a bed of mice, which were pets of her older sister, climbed on the bed and gnawed her hands. Her cries brought assistance, but the lacerations caused blood poisoning.

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## Searchers See Customs Service Rehabilitation

Many Bodies A COMPLETE HOUSECLEANING, SAYS SECRETARY MACVEAGH.

BUT ONLY FOUR CORPSES WERE RECOVERED FRIDAY.

FALLING ROCK AND EARTH NO FURTHER IMMUNITY

Prevented the Bringing to Surface of More Victims—Below 250 Feet Fires Are Still Burning.

In Customs Investigations at New York —Abolition of Office of Acting Deputy Surveyor—Many Removals.

New York, Nov. 19.—Collector of the Port William Loeb, Jr., today announced the removal from the customs service of 73 employees and attaches of the weighing and other divisions of the customs service here. Among those dismissed are James F. Vall, formerly deputy surveyor of the weighing division; George E. Bedell, formerly chief of the office of the weighing division; James P. Hyland and Joseph O. Carroll, ex-foremen of weighing divisions.

No Further Immunity. Washington, Nov. 19.—The dismissal from the customs service of Acting Surveyor James F. Vall, the abolition of that office in the New York

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## Condensed Telegrams

The Bubonic Plague Has Reappeared in Caracas, Venezuela.

Fire Damaged the City Hall at Elmirra, N. Y., to the extent of \$60,000.

Final Acceptance of the new battleship South Carolina was acknowledged by Secretary Meyer.

Fifty Persons Were Driven into the street when an apartment was destroyed by fire at Sandusky, Ohio.

Under Orders from Secretary of Agriculture Wilson, government inspectors are seizing bleached flour.

Count De Buisseret, the Belgian minister, presented his credentials to President Taft at the White House.

Mother of Catholic Pupils at a girls' school in Saine-et-Oise, France, burned the interdicted school books.

Wildcat Meat is at a Premium in San Francisco as a result of a demand for it by the warring Chinese troops.

Vincent Diaz, a grandson of the president of Mexico, was arrested at Enid, Okla., for disorderly conduct.

Albert T. Patrick, serving a life sentence at Chicago for the murder of William M. Rice, obtained another writ of habeas corpus.

As a Result of the Steinthal Trial the French minister of justice says he will propose certain changes in procedure in the courts of France.

Guastave Tery, who stirred up the recent naval scandal in France, was arrested in a duel with Laurent Tailhade, the poet, at Paris.

Joseph Ellsworth Was Arrested in Chicago and committed to the custody of Schuyler Rainier, a wealthy farmer of Florence, N. J.

Two Arrests Were Made in connection with the dynamiting of buildings at Indianapolis, while a threatening letter was sent to Mayor Bookwalter.

Government Attorneys Appealed to the United States circuit court of appeals at Chicago to have the bail of John R. Webb increased from \$50,000 to \$250,000.

The Pope in an Address to French pilgrims declared that France was making war against the church with an aim to undermining the basis of Christianity.

QUIET ON THE SURFACE, BUT ACTIVITY BENEATH. Mysterious Conference at Washington Over Nicaraguan Affairs.

Washington, Nov. 19.—Brooding quiet settled down today on the capital, but this government itself is not in with Nicaragua. But if everything was quiet on the surface there was plenty stirring beneath. A communication was received at the state department from the Nicaraguan legation, the purpose of which was not divulged, and the minister from Costa Rica held a mysterious conference with Assistant Secretary Wilson in the afternoon.

A significant development of the day, inasmuch as it disclosed the government's unyielding determination not to interfere with the struggle between the revolutionists and the state department, subsequent to the filing of the suit.

The afternoon was given over to the reading of depositions from merchants in San Francisco concerning the alleged blockade of the government forces at Greytown or elsewhere on the Gulf coast.

The deepest interest is apparent as to the conference between Assistant Secretary Wilson and the minister from Costa Rica, and Dr. Herrero, the minister from Guatemala. It is believed that the infraction of the existing laws of the United States, which here a little over two years ago, was the chief matter discussed. The violation of the agreement was committed by General Zelaya, in command of President Zelaya's forces, when he invaded Costa Rican territory in his advance on Greytown, where practically he is now besieged.

That the revolutionists under General Chomorro are making preparations for the final assault on the government forces, and that they are within the next three or four days, was announced today by Senator Francisco Castillo, the representative here of the Nicaraguan provisional government.

The two warships, the Des Moines and the Vicksburg, which were ordered to take up their position on the Atlantic and Pacific sides of the isthmus, are believed to have reached their destinations, although no word from their commanders has been received.

The department was informed today that Leonard Grace, who is believed to have been taken into custody by the government forces, was a native of Hempstead, Tex., where his family is said now to reside.

Charged With Poisoning Wife and Children. Uxbridge, Conn., Nov. 19.—Archibald McLaughlin, a clerk, was arrested today on a charge of having murdered his wife and two children by poison.

Fire broke out in the McLaughlin home recently, and McLaughlin and his wife were killed. The bodies of the children were found in a room below. Only one shot was fired in return. Soon after the bodies were found, McLaughlin was seen jumping from a window and ran.

A volley of shots was discharged at the house, and the bodies of the children were found. He died while being taken to Nampa.

The Garrett boy says his captor consented to him to take the man who shot and seriously wounded Policeman George Fleming at Nampa on Tuesday.

PROSPECT OF REDUCTION OF 9 PER CENT. IN WAGES. In the Four Score Cotton Mills in Fall River.

Fall River, Mass., Nov. 19.—The 29,600 operatives in the four score cotton mills of Fall River will face a reduction of nearly nine per cent. in their wages on December 13, unless the manufacturers decide to waive their right to make a cut, which they will have to do by the end of the month. The agreement which has been in force for several years. The existing situation is due to a great extent to the fact that during the past six months and the fall of the finished product to advance correspondingly, according to the terms of the great 25-cent margin between the cost of cotton and the price of standard print cloth will warrant a reduction from 12-13 cents a yard for weaving to 13 cents, or about 9 per cent.

Death of W. M. Laffan, Publisher of New York Sun.

New York, Nov. 19.—William L. Laffan, successor of the late Charles A. Dana in the management of the New York Sun and publisher of that newspaper for the last 25 years, died early today at his home in Lawrence, L. I., following an operation for appendicitis, performed on Monday.

Mr. Laffan's funeral will be held at his Long Island home next Monday morning.

Steamship Arrivals. At Poughkeepsie, Nov. 18, Verona from Philadelphia and New York.

Myrtle—Judge and Mrs. L. L. Laffan expect to leave on the 24th of this month for the sunny south, where they will spend the winter.

## SECY BANNER DENIES REPORTS

Recently Circulated Concerning the Conduct of the Interior Department

ALASKA COAL LANDS EXPLANATION

Emphatic Denial of the Statement that His Firm is Known as the Standard Oil Legal Adviser in Seattle—Charge that He Has Aided to Perpetrate Fraud on Government is Intentionally False.

Washington, Nov. 19.—Replying to charges made in a magazine publication, Secretary Ballinger of the interior department took occasion to deny many of the reports which recently have been circulated concerning the conduct of his department and to explain others.

Intentionally False Statement. "To say that I ever have advised, added or lent support to any effort to perpetrate a fraud upon the government, or that I have sought to make it intentionally so, it made by any one who has taken the trouble to inquire into the facts."

Alaska Coal Lands Explanation. In explanation of the charges in connection with the Alaska coal lands, he said that he had no knowledge of the withdrawal from entry of all the coal lands of Alaska in 1906, showing that the order was so modified by Secretary Garfield as to validate all applications made prior to May 16, 1907. He then called attention to the fact that in his annual report of 1907, as commissioner of the general land office, he recommended action by congress to prevent and punish the formation of combinations or trusts by claimants to coal lands and to the Alaska coal act as finally passed May 28, 1908.

He was not satisfied with Mr. Gifford Pinchot, but was submitted as a suggestion to Secretary Garfield by Representative Herbert Parsons of New York in his letter of May 7, 1908, and favorably considered and endorsed by the secretary in his report to congress.

He said that no Alaska coal claims whatever were patented and says that the investigation of all such claims.

Mr. Ballinger also answered a charge that in granting rights of way to the Hill and Hierman railroads through the Deschutes canyon in Oregon he rendered impossible the construction of a power plant in the canyon. Admitting that the department approved of the applications of the railroads, Mr. Ballinger said that this course was purely a matter of expediency, and that the wishes of the people of the section affected.

He made equally emphatic denial of a statement that his firm is known as the Standard Oil legal adviser in Seattle.

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